

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

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BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN #72.

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interests be published to the Enlisted Personnel. This bulletin is not confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the commanding officer. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

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1. Bill H.R. 11355 - Provisions for retirement of officers. There is quoted below for the information of all officers of the service a copy of Bill H.R. 11355, which was approved by the President on June 22, 1926:

"That until March 5, 1929, the provisions contained in the Act approved August 29, 1916 (Thirty-ninth Statutes at Large, page 579), which provide for the retirement of captains, commanders, and lieutenant commanders of the line of the Navy who are more than fifty-six, fifty, and forty-five years of age, respectively, and who have become ineligible for promotion on account of such age, be, and the same are hereby, modified to the extent that captains, commanders, and lieutenant commanders shall not become ineligible for promotion and shall not be retired until they have completed thirty-five, twenty-eight, and twenty-one years, respectively, of commissioned service in the Navy, and upon the completion of such service, if not recommended for promotion, they shall be retired without regard to age under the conditions specified in said Act: Provided, That the commissioned service of Naval Academy graduates, for the purpose of this Act only, shall be computed from June 30 of the calendar year in which the class with which they graduated completed its academic course, or, if its academic course was more or less than four years, from June 30 of the calendar year in which it would have completed an academic course of four years."

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2. Article D-9108 - Interpretation of. Paragraph 5 of Bureau of Navigation News Bulletin No. 70 appears to have been misinterpreted by some officers. Article D-9108 of the Bureau of Navigation Manual has not been changed and still applies. The news item was intended merely to clarify the point often raised as to how the three months' period is computed where time has been lost during the enlistment by misconduct. All early discharges, 3 months or less in advance of expiration of enlistment, or enlistment as automatically extended by misconduct time, must be for the convenience of the government.

3. Article 1779, Navy Regulations, Articles 2145-2148, Manual of the Supply Corps. There have been a few cases recently brought to the Bureau's attention where men under confinement having been required or allowed to deposit money and valuables with other enlisted men have suffered the loss of such money through the desertion of the men with whom it was entrusted. Attention is invited to Article 1779, Navy Regulations, and to Articles 2145-2148 Manual of the Supply Corps.

4. Beneficiary Slips - Attention called to proper execution of. A case has recently come to the attention of this Bureau where neither the original nor the duplicate of a man's beneficiary slip was signed by the man concerned. The Commanding Officer attached his signature as witness and notary to the man's signature but the latter had never been made. As a result, the Department is without authority to certify payment of six months' gratuity to the beneficiary indicated.

Other cases have occurred where the man's signature has been made in due form but has not been witnessed and certified. Cases similar to the foregoing cast discredit upon the Service in the event of death occurring in line of duty.

Great care should be exercised that beneficiary slips are properly executed and contain not only the correct information but are legally executed as well.

5. Hydrographic News. Attention is called to the articles on weather appearing on the backs of the Pilot Charts of the North Atlantic Ocean for May and the North Pacific Ocean for August (will be issued 15 June). The former is an article on the use of weather maps constructed at sea and the latter is a revision of the article "Tropical Storms of the Eastern North Pacific." Some important additional data of the eleven storms which occurred in the Eastern Pacific during 1925 are included.

The first aviation chart for the use of seaplanes has been issued by the Hydrographic Office showing the route between Washington-Baltimore-Norfolk. On the border of the chart are shown half-tone pictures of the principal landing fields and lighthouses along this route; also buoys and other aids to navigation are plainly charted and the courses between important points are designated in a different color. Similar charts will be constructed of the entire coasts of the United States and outlying possessions as soon as practicable.

This chart, under the law, is sold to the public at 20 cents a copy.

The U.S.S. HANNIBAL has just completed the work planned for the survey season 1925-26 in the Gulf of Batabano on the south coast of Cuba, and is on her way to the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, for overhaul. An area of 1,515 square miles was surveyed, which is the largest area surveyed in any one season.

The HANNIBAL was accompanied by an aerial survey unit comprising two Leoning Amphibian planes. This unit successfully completed the task of making photographs of the shore-line and outlying cays.

The U.S.S. NOKOMIS has arrived at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, having been employed for several months in a survey of the north coast of Cuba, in the vicinity of Cardenas and Isabela.

The aerial survey unit, before joining the HANNIBAL in the Gulf of Batabano, made an aerial survey of the area being surveyed by the NOKOMIS.

The U.S.S. NIAGARA will leave the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, for survey duty in the Gulf of Venezuela. She will be accompanied by an aerial survey unit.

6. Motion Pictures. The Bureau has purchased the following feature motion pictures for distribution to ships and stations taking Navy Film Service:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STAR</u>
The Fighting Blood	Bob Custer
The New Champion	Wm. Fairbanks
The Prince of Pilsen	George Sidney
My Old Dutch	O'Malley - McAvoy
The Big Show	Lowell- Russell
The Devil Horse	Rex - Trained Horse
Driftin' Through	Harry Carey
Silence	Warner-Reynolds
The Unknown Soldier	Mack - De La Motte
Hands Across the Border	Fred Thompson
Tony Runs Wild	Tom Mix
The Shamrock Handicap	Gaynor-Fenton
Paris at Midnight	Goudal-L. Barrymore
The Phantom Bullet	Hoot Gibson
Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Harry Meyers
Bigger than Barnum's	Viola Dana

7. Complements for all Ships and Stations. On 30 June, 1926, the new revised complements for all ships and stations became effective. The complements in general retained about the same total number of men for each unit but the number of petty officers of the higher ratings was scaled down to a more normal ratio. The original proposal for the budget for this fiscal year contained provisions for 8011 chief petty officers. The revised complements total 6880 which is 8 per cent of the total strength required to man the vessels on the operating force plan for this year; viz, 86,000. As soon as it was decided to reduce the number of chief petty officers, advancements to that grade were restricted to about 25 per month. As losses from that

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grade are considerably more than that, the number of chief petty officers in service is being reduced at a satisfactory rate and should equal the reduced requirements before 31 December, 1926, after which date the normal flow of promotions to chief petty officers may again be resumed.

A most significant feature of the new complements is that if the number of men in service in all grades equalled the total of all these complements, the funds appropriated for pay would not be over-obligated. This was not the case with the former complements, and had they been continued the current scheme of promotion (to fill vacancies in complement) would have had to be considerably modified. As it stands now, the present scheme of advancement may be continued without withholding more than a very few ratings from its operation.

As the budget has been balanced between complements and the funds available for paying the total number of men represented by these complements, this Bureau is disapproving all requests to change complements except for reasons of the most urgent nature. This is considerable advisable, too, from the standpoint of maintenance of a stable situation in personnel distribution, in advancement to fill vacancies and in the whole matter of training personnel for replacements, reliefs and advancement. By 1 March, 1927, the amount of the funds available for pay of enlisted men for the fiscal year 1928 should be known so that recommendations for changes of complement to be effective for that fiscal year would be in order about the first of March next. At that time a new compromise could be effected between the many demands on this Bureau for additional men and additional petty officer ratings from the various activities of the Navy and the balance struck for 1928 between funds available and approved complements.

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